BBC Learning English Words in the news 10th October 2008 Britain v Iceland over finance



A British delegation is going to Iceland to seek assurances that UK depositors will not lose money as a result of Iceland's banking crisis. The UK government froze all UK-held assets of a collapsed Icelandic bank, using anti-terror laws. Ray Furlong reports from Reykjavik:

Iceland's Prime Minister Geir Haarde said the decision to bring Iceland's biggest bank, Kaupthing, under state control was partly **due to** the actions of the British authorities. He **was referring to** the **move** yesterday by the financial services authority in London **to close down** Kaupthing's UK **subsidiaries**. But Mr Haarde was also angry this was done using anti-terror laws. He said he'd **made his views clear** to Alistair Darling during a telephone conversation:

HAARDE:

I told the Chancellor that we were not pleased with that and they could not **regard** us in any way as the people that this act is supposed to apply to - terrorists. And I think he agreed.

Mr Haarde **went on to say** that he thought there was a crisis in relations with Britain. But he added that he'd **cleared up** a number of issues with Mr Darling and that a British team would be arriving in Reykjavik shortly for talks on a number of **outstanding issues**.

Ray Furlong, BBC News, Reykjavik

Vocabulary and definitions

due to	caused by, a result of
was referring to	was talking about, meant
move	here, measure, step, action
to close down	to stop the work of
subsidiaries	a subsidiary is a company which is owned by another, larger company
made his views clear	said what he thought in a way that was easy to understand
regard	consider, think of
went on to say	then said
cleared up	dealt with, talked about (in order to find a solution)
outstanding issues	problems and/or points of disagreement that need to be talked about (in order to find a solution) and dealt with

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